

Amendment to the Description:

On page 10, beginning at line 16, please replace the paragraph beginning "Figure 5 is" with the following:

-- Figure 5 is a partial perspective nut mounting side view of the multiple parallel strings 30 positioned along the string line 32 as shown with the keyboard overlay 70 removed. The strings 30 pass across the front surface sound board 16 of the hollow acoustic resonant area 14 and pass across the neck area 50 having a raised upper surface 52 which the hammer 86 presses the string 30 against. The first string end 36 is shown passing through dampening material 71, yarn interwoven into the strings, on its way to the to the intonation rod 56. In the preferred embodiment, the yarn is interwoven and braided with crossovers amongst the strings 30 to provide the dampening material 71. As shown, the string length 42 passes across the raised upper surface 52 such that when the hammer 86 presses these string 30 against the raised upper surface 52 a reduced string length 44 is achieved. The hammer 86 is not visible in Figure 5. Note that the raised upper surfaces 52 are positioned under the location of the hammers 86 such that they are positioned on the hammer line 92 at an acute angle 94 to the string line 32.--

On page 11, beginning at line 5, please replace the paragraph beginning "Figure 6 is" with the following:

-- Figure 6 is a partial underside view of the keyboard overlay showing the user 5 depressing a key 72 such that the position of a key finger 22 and stop dampener 24 may be seen as they are used to catch the key stop 84 built in as part of the hammer body 88 to control the maximum upward movement of the keys 72. As shown, the keyboard overlay 70 includes keys 72 including white keys 74 and black keys 76 spaced at a key separation distance 78. Each key

Appl. No. 10/761,539
Amendment dated 1/23/2006
Reply to Office Action of 8/22/2005

has a hammer 86 including a built in key stop 84 with a downwardly extending hammer body 88 holding a hammer head 90 for contacting the strings 30. The strings 30 are not visible in Figure 6. The keys 72 and the associated hammers 86 are consistently lined up in the normal keyboard fashion with a consistent hammer line 92 along the keys 72 such that the keys 72 maintain a consistent playing feel--